

sum of £1,200 was raised from a very enthusiastic and generous Jewish audience. On another occasion Bernie Taft braced himself with great nervous tension and much sweating to deliver a speech from that platform in Yiddish, a language he had not spoken publicly for years.

The execution of leading Jewish writers and the closing down of Jewish cultural institutions in the Soviet Union in 1948, — a tragedy of Stalin's later years which was contrary to the whole policy and spirit of communism, — left a mark which time, and the emergence of a new Jewish cultural life in the Soviet Union in later years, have not wholly erased. On top of this calamity we have had to face in more recent times a campaign run by the imperialists and their conscious and unconscious servants, a campaign that has seized upon certain remaining manifestations of anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union to paint a wholly false picture of Soviet policy. Soviet policy is, in fact, directed to **extirpating** anti-Semitism which was an age-long curse of the old Russia.

A Progressive Jewish Centre now exists in Melbourne, largely based on more recently arrived Polish migrants and discussing various subjects of Jewish and general interest, from time to time inviting Communist speakers along with others of different persuasions. Meanwhile Jewish communists themselves hold periodical meetings which are notable for the keen intellectual interest in world affairs displayed by their audiences. A special tribute should be paid to Saul Factor and other leading spirits in this splendid work so faithfully carried on over decades in face of all difficulties.

MARXIST STUDY CLASSES

A special feature of the early postwar period was the many-sided educational work of Marx School, an institution with rooms in Howey Court, Collins Street, and with Bernie Taft as its enthusiastic and capable full-time director.

This school, well fitted out with attractive rooms and a good library, gave the Party's educational work

a standing that it did not possess previously. It was a lively and vigorous centre. Apart from its simultaneous running of many classes (giving a wider choice of classes and tutors), it ran well-attended Sunday evening lectures over a long period.

I was asked to lecture from time to time and was glad of the pressure this placed on me to brush up my knowledge and thrash out new problems. I remember trying my hand on the English and French Revolutions, on primitive communist society, on the history of the Party in Victoria, on the People's Democracies in Eastern Europe (on which I made some errors, I think) and on a variety of other questions.

During the life of Marx School (1945-1950) I prepared more lectures of this kind than in any other period. The disappearance of Marx School as it then operated was perhaps inevitable for a number of reasons (among other things it tended to separate Communist education from the life and problems of the Communist Party local or factory branch). But the setting up of a Marx-Lenin Institute in some form or other should undoubtedly be one of our aims for the future.

Theory — the summing up of past experience to light the way for the present and future — is the very life-blood of all the Party's activity. The basic philosophical and social theories outlined by Marx and Lenin remain the only true compass for steering through the stormy political seas of our time. These theories need to be closely studied and their essence firmly grasped, more than ever before. They need to be not merely echoed, but creatively applied to new situations, as the 81 Communist and Workers' Parties proceeded to apply them to the world situation of 1960. We need to study, for example, new phases in the course of the capitalist economic cycle, in the competition between the two social systems, in the development of the national liberation struggle, in the development of socialist democracy. We need to analyse more fully all the implications of automation, cybernetics, nuclear power and other basic features of mid-20th Century society. A Marxist-Leninist analysis of these matters is of deep